

Appl. No. 10/670,090
Prelim. Amdt. dated Apr. 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. New claim 40 has been added by this preliminary amendment. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A golf ball comprising nanofiller material, wherein the nanofiller material consists essentially of particles of inorganic material, wherein each particle has a largest dimension that is about one micron or less and that is at least an order of magnitude greater than such particle's smallest dimension.

Claim 18 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 17, wherein the particles of inorganic material consist essentially of clay.

Claim 19 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 18, wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of hydrotalcite, montmorillonite, micafluoride, and octosilicate.

Claim 20 (original): A golf ball as defined in 17, wherein:
the golf ball comprises a core; and
the core comprises nanofiller material.

Claim 21 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 20, wherein the core comprises about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight nanofiller material.

Claim 22 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 21, wherein the core comprises about 0.1 to about 15 percent by weight nanofiller material.

Appl. No. 10/670,090
Prelim. Amdt. dated Apr. 23, 2004

Claim 23 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 22, wherein the core comprises about 0.1 to about 10 percent by weight nanofiller material.

Claim 24 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 17, wherein:
the golf ball comprises a core and a layer surrounding the core; and
the layer comprises nanofiller material.

Claim 25 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 24, wherein:
the golf ball comprises a cover layer on the surface of the golf ball, and;
the cover layer comprises nanofiller material.

Claim 26 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 24, wherein:
the golf ball comprises a cover layer on the surface of the golf ball and an
intermediate layer or layers between the core and the cover layer; and
one or more of the intermediate layer or layers comprise nanofiller material.

Claim 27 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 24, wherein the layer comprises about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight nanofiller material.

Claim 28 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 27, wherein the layer comprises about 0.1 to about 15 percent by weight nanofiller material.

Claim 29 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 26, wherein the layer comprises about 0.1 to about 10 percent by weight nanocomposite material.

Claim 30 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 17, wherein:
the golf ball comprises a core, a layer of rubber thread encasing the core, and a
cover layer encasing the layer of rubber thread; and
the core comprises nanocomposite material.

Claim 31 (original): A golf ball as defined in claim 17 wherein:

Appl. No. 10/670,090
Prelim. Amdt. dated Apr. 23, 2004

the golf ball comprises a core, a layer of rubber thread encasing the core, and a cover layer encasing the layer of rubber thread; and
the cover layer comprises nanocomposite material.

Claims 32-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (new): A method for making a composition for use in golf balls, comprising a step of blending into the composition a nanofiller material, wherein the nanofiller material comprises particles of inorganic material, wherein each particle has a largest dimension that is about one micron or less and that is at least an order of magnitude greater than such particle's smallest dimension.